

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 of the application have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request that only the pending claims, 18-28, be used for calculating the filing fee. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C 120, applicants claim the benefit of its parent application U.S. Application No. 09/560,945 ("the first application"):

- 1) this application is an application for a patent for an invention that is disclosed in first application;
- 2) this application is copending with the first application;
- 3) this application contains, by virtue of this amendment, a specific reference to the first application in the specification (37 C.F.R. 1.78);
- 4) this application is filed by an inventor or inventors named in the first application; and
- 5) the benefit claim referenced above is submitted now, which is during the pendency of this application.

Should the Examiner have any questions whatsoever, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's attorney at the number listed below. As indicated by the accompanied fee transmittal, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required (or to credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 19-2112, which is associated with Shook, Hardy, & Bacon L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,



Jesse J. Camacho
Reg. No. 51,258

PAL/jjc/bp
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
2555 Grand Boulevard.
Kansas City, MO 64108-2613
Phone: 816-474-6550
Fax: 816-421-5547